

Bagram News Express



START RIGHT, FINISH STRONG

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455th Airmen gain better understanding of international medevac



German military Chief Master Sgt. Klaus Zuaihasch, a medical crew chief at Camp Marmal, Afghanistan, gives U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Michael Gainer, commander, 455th Aeromedical Evacuation Flight, a tour of a German C-160 aeromedical evacuation aircraft, April 25, 2010. Colonel Gainer visited Camp Marmal to discuss aeromedical evacuation missions in anticipation of the surge. (U.S. Air Force photo by/ Tech. Sgt. Jeromy K. Cross)

By: Staff Sgt. Richard Williams
455th Air Expeditionary Wing
Public Affairs

Mazar-i-Sharif, Afghanistan—U.S. and German aeromedical evacuation units met to gain insight, share ideas and coordinate joint evacuation efforts at International Security Assistance Force

Regional Command North's Camp Marmal, Afghanistan, April 24-26, 2010.

U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Michael Gainer, 455th Expeditionary Aeromedical Evacuation Flight commander, and other U.S. aeromedical experts used the three-day visit with their German counterparts to exchange ideas on ways

to improve the evacuation process in a coalition environment.

"We are trying to establish a smoother flow of communication between all of the (aeromedical evacuation) agencies and interoperability with our equipment and

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airframes,” said Colonel Gainer, deployed from Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash. “We want to identify what equipment does not work well together and try to develop an understanding of how we can work together to improve the process.”

According to German Col. Thomas Stahl, German Medical Task Force, Afghanistan commander and medical advisor to the RC-North commander, although the medical evacuation systems of the coalition countries are not very different, there are different medical policies and philosophies between forces and a common ground must be reached to ensure the best, most timely medical care is given to patients.

“We are potentially going from a few hundred to a few thousand U.S. forces in the RC-North region in the next few months,” added Colonel Gainer. “With this growth, the potential for medical and casualty evacuation could rise and we want to ensure the system is in place and ready to go if needed.”

Colonel Gainer explained that although German aeromedical evacuation is outstanding, their German C-160 aeromedical evacuation aircraft has a smaller capacity for transporting patients than that of the U.S. aircraft,



German military Lt. Col. (Dr.) Frank Barteldt, commander of the medical treatment facility at Camp Marmal, Afghanistan, gives U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Michael Gainer, commander, 455th Aeromedical Evacuation Flight, a tour April 25, 2010. Colonel Gainer was visiting Camp Marmal to discuss aeromedical evacuation missions in anticipation of the surge. (U.S. Air Force photos by/ Tech. Sgt. Jeromy K. Cross)

which means in the event of a mass transport situation, the system could become overwhelmed with patients.

“A lot of our people are not able to speak English; a lot of other nations in the theater are not able to speak English and that can cause a problem,” explained German Chief Master Sgt. Klaus Zuaihasch, a medical crew chief on the German C-160 aeromedical evacuation aircraft.

The type of power used to operate equipment, different medications and dosage are all issues Colonel Stahl sees as a challenge to the combined aeromedical evacuation effort. He added that even the way patients are transported from the medical facility to the

aircraft can present a challenge.

Sergeant Zuaihasch said equipment standardization is a key component to creating a fluid patient transfer process where patients can go from aircraft to aircraft and hospital to hospital without compromising the level of care. “We are not able to give our litters to the Americans because they have (different) litters than the Germans, so when we hand over intensive care patients, there is added stress on the patients.”

He added meetings between coalition medical teams are great because they give each country a chance to see and learn about equipment the other uses and gives both sides a chance to gain a better understanding of the other.

Colonel Gainer agreed, adding sometimes the process has to be coordinated through a number of channels before the mission actually leaves the ground. He explained all U.S. fixed-wing aeromedical evacuation orders come from the Combined Air and Space Operations Center, South-



German military Lt. Col. (Dr.) Frank Barteldt, commander of the medical treatment facility at Camp Marmal, Afghanistan, gives a tour to the 455th Expeditionary Aeromedical Evacuation Flight commander.

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west Asia. Rotary wing casualty evacuation is controlled through each regional command's patient evacuation center in which the German aeromedical evacuation teams are located along with the RC-North PEC.

Sometimes communication between all agencies involved in the patient transfer process can be a challenge.

"They work on a different tele-

phone system than we do," said Colonel Gainer. "We are working to get some of our systems to their areas to help with information flow but it is going to take some time and the access will be limited. Until these systems are in place it is going to take a greater effort to ensure everyone knows the plan for patient movement so everyone is ready and there are no delays."

He lauded the care at the German medical facility as, "top notch western medicine at its finest." Colonel Gainer thinks one of the greatest

parts of a deployment is getting to work with other NATO countries to share ideas and information to improve the way everyone does business.

"I expected a great visit, but it was clear to me that we were both interested in providing the best care for patients, whether they are coalition or U.S.," said Colonel Gainer. "We are very excited about the opportunity to work together and I think both countries will benefit from the strong relationship we are developing."



German military Chief Master Sgt. Klaus Zuaihasch, a medical crew chief at Camp Marmal, Afghanistan, gives U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Michael Gainer, commander, 455th Aeromedical Evacuation Flight, a tour of a German C-160 aeromedical evacuation aircraft, April 25, 2010. (U.S. Air Force photo by/ Tech. Sgt. Jeromy K. Cross)

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Panjshir PRT welcomes 455th AEW commander

**By: 2nd Lt. Jason Smith
Panjshir Provincial Reconstruction Team Public Affairs**

PANJSHIR PROVINCE, Afghanistan—Air Force guests from Bagram Airfield visited with the members of Panjshir Provincial Reconstruction Team, April 25, 2010.

During his visit, U.S. Air Force Col. Jack Briggs II, 455th Air Expeditionary Wing commander, said Panjshir Provincial Reconstruction Team members represent the best of America.

Colonel Briggs, U.S. Air Force Col. James Meersman, 755th Air Expeditionary Group commander, Chief Master Sgt. Jeffery Cui, 455th AEW command chief, and other Air Force guests were among the visiting group.

After arriving by chopper, the group was taken to Forward Operating Base Lion where U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Curtis Velasquez, Panjshir PRT commander and Abilene, Kan., native, and James DeHart, U.S. Department of State, Panjshir PRT director gave a mission briefing. The group discussed many aspects of the PRT, including the pending appointment of a new governor for the province.

"You never want to put your guard down," said Colonel Briggs. "It's a new environment all of the time. Feed your leadership with information. Be observant. For this first part of the leadership change, you need to be on your toes."

Following the briefing, the group had a traditional Afghan lunch near the Panjshir River. A local restaurant served the meal that included kabobs, rice, vegetables and nan, or Afghan bread. To wash the meal down, they were served Panjshir water which is locally produced and bottled.

The group then visited the tomb of Ahmad Shah Massoud, "Hero of the Afghan Nation," who was killed in 2001. They said a prayer at the



U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Curtis Velasquez (front, left), Provincial Reconstruction Team Panjshir commander and Abilene, Kan., native, and James DeHart, U.S. Department of State and PRT Panjshir director (second on right), host a traditional Afghan lunch with visitors from Bagram Airfield, April 25, 2010. A local restaurant served the meal that included kabobs, rice, vegetables and nan, or Afghan bread. To wash the meal down, the group was served Panjshir water which is locally produced and bottled. (U.S. Air Force photo by/ 2nd Lt. Jason Smith)

tomb and then toured the construction site of the Massoud Tomb Complex, which when completed will include a mosque, museum and library.

After returning to the FOB, Colonel Briggs briefed all of the mili-

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tary PRT members. He said how proud he and the rest of America are of the men and women of the PRT.

“Be proud because we’re doing something bigger than ourselves,” said Colonel Briggs. “It’s something sacrificial, and it’s important.”

While the PRT mission is important, it’s equally important to take care of each other, said Colonel Briggs. “Protect each other. Defend each other. Look each other in the eye when it’s not a good day and say, ‘What’s going on?’”

Colonel Velasquez said he’s glad the 455th AEW commander visited the PRT because it gave him a chance to show off the great work his people are doing to support the province.

“Panjshir is the model province for Afghanistan,” said Colonel Velasquez. “I’m proud of the work the PRT is doing, and it’s always a pleasure for me to get a chance to show senior leadership.”

Colonel Briggs too showed his appreciation for the PRT by presenting three commander’s coins before departing on a helicopter back to Bagram Airfield.



GHAZNI PROVINCE, Afghanistan – U.S. Air Force Capt. Phillip Baker (front), Provincial Reconstruction Team Panjshir civil engineer and San Antonio, Texas, native, greets Chief Master Sgt. Jeffery Cui, 455th Air Expeditionary Wing command chief, at the helicopter landing zone. Chief Cui, Air Force Col. Jack Briggs II, 455th AEW commander, Air Force Col. James Meersman, 755th Air Expeditionary Group commander, and other guests from Bagram Airfield visited with the members of Panjshir PRT, April 25, 2010. (U.S. Air Force photo by/ 2nd Lt. Jason Smith)



455th Air Expeditionary Wing commander visits Airmen

(Right) U.S. Air Force Col. Jack Briggs II, 455th Air Expeditionary Wing commander, points to U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. John Kang, 655th Forward Surgical Team commander, to come up and receive a coin April 26, 2010, for exemplary leadership at Forward Operating Base Ghazni. Colonel Briggs visited the FST to thank Airmen for their service and for exhibiting the highest ideals of counter-insurgency tactics by saving both Afghan and American lives on the operating table. The Airmen are part of the first Air Force FST to be stationed in Afghanistan. (U.S. Army photo by/ Capt. Jennifer Bocanegra)

455TH AIR EXPEDITIONARY WING

WARRIORS OF THE WEEK

Senior Airman Jordan Saunders, 4th Expeditionary Reconnaissance Squadron



Senior Airman Jordan Saunders is this week's 455th Air Expeditionary Wing Warrior of the Week. He is an MC-12W Liberty sensor operator deployed from the 16th Air Command and Control Squadron, Robins Air Force Base, Ga.

As a sensor operator, Airman Saunders provides ground commanders with real time intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance which helps expand their situational awareness. He also assists ground forces in counter-IED efforts, enemy pattern of life analysis, target development, and ground and helicopter assault force execution.

"I appreciate leadership nominating me for this award," said Airman Saunders. He was quick to point out that his winning this award was a reflection of the team he works with because he feels although he won this honor he could not complete the mission without the Airmen around him.

When asked why he thought his job was important, Airman Saunders replied, "I support the guy on the ground with full motion video and battlespace awareness."

He is proud to potentially save lives with the mission he flies.

Airman Saunders' management said he has had an enormous impact on the 4th ERS, especially in his efforts to accelerate the stand-up and full combat readiness of this unit. With respect to his time in service, he has demonstrated uncommon maturity and initiative in tackling many of the tough challenges of fully employing the new MC-12W weapon system. Although new to the MC-12 program himself, his capabilities became readily apparent and resulted in his early selection as an instructor, squadron certifier, and informal mentor of younger sensor operators. In these roles, Airman Saunders has taught and shaped the newest sensor operators to be fully combat ready. His commitment to excellence was readily apparent as he developed innovative solutions to some of the squadron's most complex tactical challenges. His self-developed tactics, techniques, and procedures have enhanced squadron safety while significantly improving the ISR service provided on more than 300 combat sorties. His strong leadership and character have been critical to the 4th ERS's success here.



94.1 FM

Afghanistan

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SARC FAQs

QUESTION:

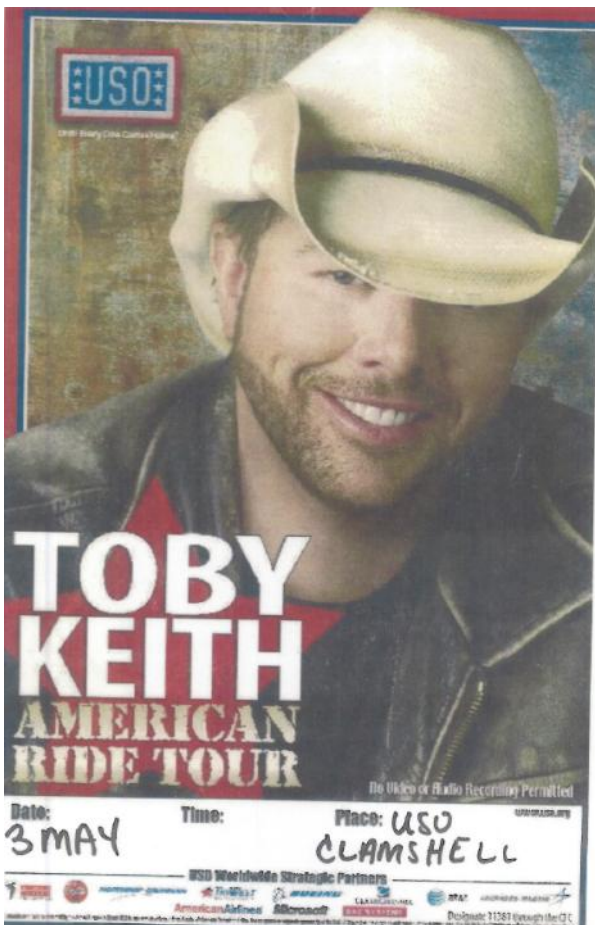
What is the definition of a sexual assault "victim"?

ANSWER:

A victim is a person who alleges direct physical, emotional, or pecuniary harm as a result of the commission of a sexual assault or other crime of interpersonal violence.

Always take a Wingman

If you are interested in becoming a
Victim Advocate, contact
Capt. Jose Milan
DSN: 318-431-4060
455aew.sarc@bgab.afcent.af.mil



NEWS BRIEFS

IMMUNIZATIONS: Are your immunizations up to date? Active-duty members are required to stay current on all immunizations during their deployment. Report to your nearest medical treatment facility to check your status and get vaccinated. For questions, contact Task Force Medical Public Health, 431-4426.

NEWCOMERS INPROCESSING: All Air Force members are required to in-process with PERSCO. The in-processing will start your combat pay entitlements. If you have been in the area of responsibility for at least 30 days and you are not receiving combat pay, visit Finance in the crow's nest tower on Camp Cunningham. If you know for a fact that you did not in process with PERSCO, visit PERSCO located in Bldg. 700 near the passenger terminal. Call 431-2070/4409 for more information.

COMBAT O: Combat Orientation is every Friday at 1245Z/0515L at the MWR Clamshell. Uniform is Air Force PT uniform for fitness assessment. This is a mandatory briefing for all Air Force personnel assigned to Bagram Airfield. Accountability is tracked and will be forwarded to the first sergeants.

BAF MAIL INSTRUCTIONS:

BAF residents, ensure individuals sending mail have your most current contact information. This alleviates any delays in receiving your mail. Below is the contact information required for individuals to receive mail.

NAME - (Eg. Jane Doe; no rank)

UNIT - (Eg. 455 ECS/SCXK)

Bagram Airfield or BAF

APO AE 09354

455th AEW Tip of the Week

COMMUNITY STANDARDS

Tobacco — Tobacco use, including smokeless tobacco, is strongly discouraged, and is prohibited in any location other than a designated tobacco use area. Military personnel who violate this prohibition are subject to prosecution under Article 92 of the UCMJ, as well as any other applicable article of the UCMJ. Civilian personnel are subject to administrative disciplinary action and/or termination of employment and redeployment.

455th AEW Safety tip of the week

HEADPHONES

Headphones and their associated devices, (CD players, MP3 players, radios, etc) are only authorized in indoor exercise and recreation areas. They are prohibited for outdoor use, including outdoor physical fitness activity. Military personnel who violate this prohibition are subject to prosecution under Article 92 of the UCMJ, as well as any other applicable article of the UCMJ. Civilian personnel are subject to administrative disciplinary action and/or termination of employment and redeployment. If you have questions, please contact the Safety Office at 431-4743.

455th AEW Financial Tip of the Week

Tax Free Pay- Tax free pay is started as of the date you first arrived in the AOR. It is also started by PERSCO and usually takes a week or two to update on your pay record. You only have to be in the AOR one day of the month to receive the federal and state tax exemption for the month. You will continue to pay FICA-social security and FICA-Medicare.

Hostile Fire Pay- hostile fire pay is started as of the date you first arrived in the AOR. It is started by PERSCO and usually takes a week or two to update on your pay record. You only have to be in the AOR one day of the month to receive \$225 for the entire month.


455th AEW Policies and Procedures

Flightline Photography — Personnel on Bagram Airfield are not authorized to take still photography or video imagery on the airfield flightline unless authorized by the 455th Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs office and 455th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron. Images must be used for official use only. Violators of this policy will be detained and possibly taken into custody. Call 455th AEW/PA at 431-2371 for more information.



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 DSN: 481-6216

4 May
1930 hrs

